PREFACE

101 114 [115] The Rwala are recognized by all their neighbors as the only true Bedouin tribe of northern Arabia. Traveling and camping with them for months I had ample opportunities of studying their life. The results of these studies are given in this volume. I have found it advisable, however, to add some details which I learned from my companion Blejhân eben Meṣreb, who was not a Rwejli (or member of the Rwala), but hailed from the Ḳmuṣa division of the Sba'a tribe. Both Sba'a and Rwala belong to the 'Aneze group, the Ḳmuṣa being neighbors of the Rwala and almost identical with the latter in manners and customs.

104 In transliterating Arabic terms, phrases, sentences, dities, and poems I have tried to reproduce exactly the words of those whom I quote — Rwala, for the most part. I have not corrected their many inconsistencies in grammar and pronunciation. All the ditties, songs, and poems were explained to me in the desert. I used no dictionary as an aid to their translation.

In transliterating Arabic letters I have used the same signs as in my works *The Northern Ḥeǧâz* (New York, 1926), *Arabia Deserta*, *The Middle Euphrates* (New York, 1927), *Palmyrena*, and *Northern Neǧd* (New York, 1928), attempting to express each sound by a single letter or a single symbol. The meaning of the different symbols is indicated below.

000 Closing the publication of the results of my explorations and studies since 1908 I must thank all those who have helped me morally and materially both in the East and West, among them: the Academy of Sciences, Vienna; Archbishop Dr. František Bauer, Olomouc; al-Ḥâǧǧ Dâûd eben Sulejmân eben Ṣâleḥ, Damascus; Khalil Fattal, Damascus; Dr. Otto Feilchenfeld, Prague; the Geographical Society, Vienna; Dr. Max Ritter von Gutmann, Vienna; Abbot Dr. Gilbert Helmer, Teplá; Dr. Joseph Ritter von Karabacek, Vienna; Jindřich Klinger, Prague; the Lackenbacher Fund of the Theological Faculty of the University of Vienna; the reigning Prince Johann von und zu Liechtenstein, Vienna; Dr. Melchior Mlčoch, Olomouc; Prince an-Nûri eben Ša'lân; Baron Louis Rothschild, Vienna; Philipp Alois Schoeller, Vienna; Abbot Dr. Method Zavoral, Prague.

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000 The editor Dr. John K. Wright has cared for my works as if they were his own. For over eight years Miss Anna Blechová, Secretary of the Oriental Seminar at Charles University, Prague, has devoted herself with rare enthusiasm to the task of preparing these volumes and maps for publication.

It should be pointed out that the printing of this series as a whole, and particularly that of the present volume, raised exceptional typographic difficulties. The work was carried out by the Státní tiskárna of Prague under the able direction of Mr. Karel Dyrynk. The typesetters were unfamiliar with both the English and Arabic languages and the transliteration of the latter involved the use of innumerable letters with diacritical marks. It is altogether extraordinary that the work has been accomplished so accurately and expeditiously.

TRANSLITERATION

104 Line (-) or bow (⌣) under the letter indicates an aspirated, a dot (.) an emphatic, and the sign (ˇ) over the letter a palatal pronunciation.

ʾ = أ	z = ز	ḳ = ق
b = ب	s = س	ž = ژ (like z in azure)
t = ت	š = ش (sh)	k = ك (like k in like)
ṯ = ث (ts)	ṣ = ص (sz)	č = ك (ch)
ǧ = ج (like g in gem, or dsh, dj, or y in yoke)	ḍ = ض (dh, dah)	l = ل
ḥ = ح	ṭ = ط	m = م
ḫ = خ	ẓ = ظ (zh)	n = ن
d = د	ʿ = ع (strong, guttural sound)	h = ه
ḏ = ذ (dz)	ġ = غ (ghr)	w = و
r = ر	f = ف	j = ى (y in yoke)

CHAPTER XXIV

TERMS APPLIED TO PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

101 131 The Rwala tribe camps in northern Arabia between latitude 28° and 34° north and longitude 36° and 42° east. For the various topographical features of this area the tribe has strictly defined terms, of which we noted the following:

133 *ʿAbd*: black cone

104 *Abraḳ*: dark rock partly covered with reddish sand

ʿAḍa': both dead and live bushes, grasses, excrements, clay, coarse sand, and any débris brought down by a torrent

ʿAḍra: pastures defiled by the excrements of countless herds

ʿAjârât or *ʿejârât*: huge, flat-topped elevations

ʿAḳla: a well by a channel or in a valley, which caves in after heavy rains and has to be restored

ʿAḳûla: a rather small, low depression in a plain, where the rain water gathers

ʿAlâme (pl., *ʿalâmât*): landmark

ʿAmijja: the pear-shaped hollow of a *moḳr* rain well

ʿAnza (dimin., *ʿunejza*): a long flat-topped hillock rising from a plain

ʿArejž: a long arm of a sand desert

ʿArǧa (pl., *ʿarǧât*): a turn of a valley or gully

ʿArḳûb: a slope; steep rocky hillside

ʿAsâma: scorched tract of land without pasture or water

Aṣba'a (pl., *aṣâbeʿ*): "fingers," a row of low isolated cones

Baḥṣa: soil from which the rain water runs off quickly

Barârît: desolate, waterless regions; camel paths across such regions

Barbak: a small artificial rain pond

Barḥûs: movable sharp ridge of sand dunes or drifts, bare of vegetation

Barrâde (pl., *barârid*): a path trodden out by camels between stones or gravel

Bâṭen: broad and deep valley without any channel

Baṭḥa (pl., *baṭḥât*): a shallow river bed

Baṭîn (pl., *buṭnân*): a low hillside, slope, base

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Baṭn: long depression bordered on one side by a high slope
Bed': abundant or large spring
Bejâḥa: a plateau giving a wide view
Berḳa' (pl., *burḳ*): a rocky hill partly covered by sand
Bilâd 'aḏijje: the salubrious districts of an-Nefûd and al-Ḥamâd
Bilâd mâbijje: the unhealthful districts of al-Ṛûṭa, Ǧowlân, al-Mzêrîb, Ḳerajât al-Meleḥ, and al-Ǧûba
Bîr (pl., *bijâr*): a well in general; well with spring water
Bûra: a narrow, deep ditch
Burrêž: rock salt; also mica

Čeṭṭân: a rock or stone which falls to pieces, crumbles

Dabbe: a rough ridge of flat-topped hillocks
Daḥl (pl., *duḥûl*): a long, subterranean cavern where water bubbles out, doline
Daww: a vast, elongated, level plain enclosed by two mountain chains
Demlûṛ: an isolated, blunted butte in a wide plain
Ḏerwa: a sharp summit
Dîre: the Bedouins' term for a settled territory where they get their supplies and the inhabitants of which pay them tribute

'Ebb (pl., *'ebûb*): a shallow dale, gully, bay
'Edd: a perpetual spring well
'Edwe (pl., *'edwât*): low place in a *sowḥ* valley incapable of holding rain water and therefore suitable for pitching tents
Ekšâš: a mixture of large stones and gravel
'Eleb (pl., *'elebân*): an isolated table-topped hillock
'Elejm (pl., *'alâjem*): an isolated elongated hill rising from a plain
'Erf: isolated hill, visible from afar
'Ernîn (pl., *'aran* or *'arânîn*): channel of a torrent; channel in a steep hillside
'Erž (pl., *'urûḳ*): long spur of sand

Fâǧ (pl., *fiǧân*): a wide rocky hollow
Far' (pl., *frû'*): the starting-point of a gully or valley; a branch gully of a side valley
Faraǧ: a spacious area where no danger threatens the Bedouin
Farše (pl., *frûš*): a funnel-like pit in the sand

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Fazr (dimin., *fzêr*): a crevice in clay soil where the rain water accumulates; a narrow, deep channel
Feǧǧ: a hollow of some width between two hills, with a road running through it
Fejẓa (pl., *fijâẓ*): a fertile depression
Feḳâra: stony table-land
Felḳ (pl., *flûḳ*): an elongated sand dune

Ġâbija: a shallow pit in the earth into which water for camels is poured
Ġâdde (pl., *ǧwâdd* or *ǧwâd*): path trodden out by camels in the flat desert
Ġâl (pl., *ǧîlân*): the bank of a river channel; the slope of a gully or valley; a long, steep escarpment by which a plateau falls off to a lower level
Ġam': rain water
Ġaww or *ǧaw*: a basin or valley with spring wells having water enough to supply big camps
Ġeba': an open cistern
Ġebb (pl., *ǧbebe* or *ǧebâb*): a deep rain well or cistern, wider at the bottom than at the top
Ġebw: a natural hole in a rocky plain, as much as two meters deep, where rain water accumulates. Sometimes it can be covered with a big stone
Ġelad: a rocky desert
Ġelîbe: a low, flat-topped elevation
Ġemede (pl., *ǧemed*): the stony foot of a *ǧâl*
Ġer': a region covered with white or gray sand, where nothing will grow
Ġhara': a desolate plain
Ġilf: a steep, narrow, rough ridge
Ġûba (pl., *ǧûbât*): a deep valley; a basin in a plain
Ġubb: an artificial well with spring water
Ġufra (pl., *ǧfâr* or *ǧafar*): low ground in a plain, where rain water gathers
Ġurf: a crevice; steep river bank

Ḥabâra': mouse holes
Ḥabb (pl., *ḥbûb*): long, narrow strip of rocky land bordered by sand dunes
Ḥabče: narrow, elongated depression as much as three meters wide and filled with rain water

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Habije: a rain water hole
Habîr: stony hollow forming a passage between long sand dunes
Ḥabl (pl., *ḥbâl*): a narrow long sand drift
Ḫabra (pl., *ḫabâri*): a large or small depression in a plain in which the rain water gathers
Ḥabt: a basin covered with gravel and sand, where small ponds are sometimes formed by rain water which cannot run off
Ḥadaḳ: a round hole in either clayey or stony, but soft, soil into which water runs
Haḏlûl (pl., *haḏâlîl*): shallow valley without a visible channel
Ḥala': volcano
Ḫala': a region where the camels will find no sustenance in any particular year; all that lies beyond the camp
Ḥâlât: an area covered with basalt or lava, through which neither horse nor man can move except by a few very narrow paths
Ḫaliže: an artificial, subterranean hollow; a cave
Ḥalḳ al-želîb: the opening of a well
Ḫall: a path or trail through the sand
Ḥamâd: a barren, scorched-appearing plain covered with small gravel
Ḫarbaṭa: a region of rough hillocks
Ḫarîme (pl., *ḫarâjem*): a narrow gully shut in by steep hillsides
Ḫariže (pl., *ḫarâjež*): a shallow well (from which water can be drawn by hand)
Ḥasa': rocky lowland covered with a layer of clay, sand, and gravel, under which the rain water gathers
Ḫaṣa': gravel
Ḫašm (pl., *ḫšûm*): a "nose" or steep spur of a ridge
Ḫawâja: shallow, artificial, stone- and mud-walled reservoirs on a rocky surface, where rain water is caught
Ḫawṭa: a fenced-in date grove
Ḥaẓba or *ḥaẓb* (pl., *aḥẓâb*): an extensive but isolated rocky hill
Ḫazm: a rather narrow but long height sinking down into a plain steeply on the one side and gradually on the other
Hebǧe: undulating country where it is possible to hide but also to be attacked from ambush
Ḫefne: a round hole by the river bank or at the foot of a hillside, where rain water gathers; it resembles the *radir* hole, but the latter is usually found in the river bed itself

133 *Ḥejd*: the foot of a hill; a slope shutting in a plain
104 *Ḥemma* or *ḥamme*: lava
Ḥerr (pl., *ḥerara*): a river channel in clay soil, with steep banks
Ḥesw (pl., *ḥesjân*): a depression in a rocky river bed into which the rain water runs under sand and gravel
Ḥôr: a depression where the rain water forms numerous pools
Ḥšabe (pl., *ḥšabât*): a circular, natural rocky wall shutting in small level spaces called *krajje* (pl., *krajjât*)
Ḥubta: a depression in a flat rock, where rain water can accumulate

ʿIṭa: undulating plain covered in places with sand

Ḳâʿ (pl., *žiʿân*): a flat plain where the rain water forms no brooks
Ḳaʿara (pl., *ḳaʿar*): a large hollow shut in on three sides by steep slopes
Ḳaraʾ or *aḳraʾ*: a ridge
Ḳâra (pl., *ḳûr*): an isolated table mountain; a mesa
Ḳaṣʿa (pl., *ḳṣâʿ*): a shallow natural depression in a rocky surface, where the rain water remains
Ḳaṣîme (pl., *ḳaṣâjem*): isolated sand dunes in a rocky plain
Ḳasr: a large but shallow basin which becomes a pond after unusually heavy rains
Ḳaṭar (pl., *ḳṭâr*): the last spur of a mountain range
Ḳaṭṭâr: a spring the water of which does not flow actively but merely trickles drop by drop
Ḳejš: shallow holes in a channel
[202] *Ḳenna*: an isolated conical hill on top of which a beacon is lit whenever the enemy means to attack herds grazing far from the camp
Ḳîr or *ḥummar*: bitumen
Ḳrajje (pl., *krajjât*): roughly circular basin surrounded by walls of crumbling stone

Lâl: a level plain glistening in the sun
Laṣṣâfa: a hillock with mica
Luṛuf: the eroded border of a sand desert

Maḥâl: a great distance between two wells
Maḥâri: the last spurs of a range of hillocks
Maḥfûr (pl., *maḥâfir*): artificial rain pool

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Maḥîra: a small flat area flooded and thus fertilized by rain water 133 104

Marabb: low-lying ground where the rain water of a channel is absorbed

Maṣmad (pl., *maṣâmed*): an extensive but shallow crevice at the foot of a hillside, where the rain water remains. It is of greater dimensions than the *žalta*

Maṣnaʿ (pl., *maṣâneʿ*): a rocky flat area artificially changed into a large reservoir

Maṭabb: a junction of two channels

Matne: flat-topped elevation rising gradually from the surrounding plain

Maʿw: hollow on two sides bounded by sand dunes and on two merging into rocky plain

Mefâze: barren tract between two camping grounds

Meğneb: a slope shutting in a valley through which a creek runs

Meḥîr (pl., *maḥâjer*): a basin where much water is absorbed; small hole in clay soil where the rain water accumulates

Mehmehijje: waterless desert

Melaʿ: a plain covered with a thin layer of alluvium

Mellâḥa: salina

Meẓîʿ (pl., *meẓʿân*): a shallow branch channel in a valley through which the rain water runs off into the main channel

Mizʿaže: the highest conical hill near a camp, whence warning signals can be given to herdsmen and watchers on similar hills near other camps

Mšâš: a shallow well in a clay basin into which rain water slowly percolates through the soil

Muḳra or *moḳr* (pl., *mḳûr*): half natural, half artificial well, five to ten meters deep, dug in a rock, into which the rain water flows. The opening, which is usually narrow, can be covered with a stone of moderate size [312]

Munṭâr: a conical hill

Mutribe: a path through a lava field

Nabʿ: spring water

Nâzije (pl., *nawâzi*): a vast sand plain

Nâẓra: height conspicuous from afar

Nebaʾ (pl., *nebjân*): isolated dome-shaped hillock

Nedra: spur of a rock

Nedwijje: a small spring disappearing in gravel

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133 *Niʿ*: a ditch around a tent for draining off the rain water
104 *Nijâṭ*: a boundless stony plain
Nukra: basin into which much rain water runs
Nuṛur (pl., *nuṛûr*): a hillock composed of white and dark strata

ʿObṭa: a deep basin

Raʿan (pl., *raʿûn*): a line of rocky hillocks
Rabḫ: the small stones which scatter under the hoofs of a galloping camel
Radha: a cavity in a stony slope, into which rain water runs
Radîfa (pl., *radâjef*): a low spot in a wide, shallow river bed where the rain water gathers
Ṛadîr (pl., *ṛudrân* or *ṛudr*): a hole in a channel with steep banks where rain water remains for a long time
Rahârîh: a wide plain glistening in the sun
Rakrûka: a plain covered with small, crumbled stones
Ṛâr: a precipice; crevice; canyon
Ṛarb (pl., *ṛurûb*): a reservoir from which water is distributed
Ṛarmûl (pl., *ṛarâmîl*): an isolated, low, narrow hill
Rasm: an artificial well left unfinished
Rašrâš (or *rašrâšijje*): a plain with rock surfaces worn flat by wind and sand, with pebbles and gravel scattered around. When a camel treads on such pebbles, the friction against the rocky surface produces a sound not unlike the word *rašraš*, which gives such plains their name
Reğde (pl., *riğdât*): a stratum of solid rock in a steep slope
Riʿ: a narrow, short defile
Rîf: a region with good pasture, good crops
Riğle (pl., *riğl*): a shallow valley, particularly one tributary to a main valley
Rîšijje or *rîše*: a shallow valley in an undulating stony plain
Riss (pl., *rsûs*): a well without water
Rowẓ (pl., *riẓân*): lower ground in a level desert, into which silt is deposited by rain water, producing a growth of perennials, sometimes even of annuals; a meadow
Ruzuma: a stone, boulder, rock

Śaʿara: a spring which merely trickles and does not flow
Sabḫa: salt marsh
Šaʿfe: an elevation not necessarily high, but prominent
Ṣafḫa (pl., *ṣfâḫ*): the base of a mountain
Šâhek (pl., *šhûḳ* or *šehžân*): the highest summit of a range

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133 *Ṭarak* (pl., *ṭrûk* or *ṭrâk*): a long, low ridge
104 *Tel'* (pl., *tlâ'*): a small gully ending in a tributary of a main valley
Tell (pl., *tlûl*): an isolated hill standing high above the surrounding country; volcano
Ṭemîle (pl., *ṭemâjel*): a small depression in a rocky river bed, into which the rain water runs under the gravel
Ṭenijje (pl., *ṭenâja*): a mountain defile; passage between two rows of tents
Ṭomijje: hillocks, slopes, and depressions formed in sand by the wind

'Ûd: a narrow valley in rocks

Wâdi (pl., *wudijân*): a long and wide main valley
Waššâš: cascade
Wizij (pl., *wuzâje*): cavities in the solid stony strata of a steep hillside
Wuṭi: ditch around a tent for draining off the rain water

Żadme: a projection from a rocky hillside
Żalta (pl., *žlât*): a crevice in a rocky slope, at least one meter deep, where rain water accumulates
Żel': an isolated, rugged mountain, usually of granite
Żelîb (pl., *ḳulbân*): a well, whether walled and deep or unwalled and wide
Zemle (pl., *zeml*): a low elevation; a rise
Zerâže: vast arid plains
Żoboṭ (pl., *żubṭân*): the clay foot of a *ǧâl*.

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Saḥl (pl., *sḥûl*): a narrow channel dammed-in by rocks, where rain water accumulates under gravel 133 104

Ṣaḥṣaḥ: a plain shut in by low but steep bluffs

Šâma (pl., *šâmât*): hills of different colors; dark undulating country covered in some places with rose-tinged sand

Ṣa'nûn: a deep well with no water

Ṣarâhîǧ or *ṣahârîǧ*: deep rock crevices with a narrow opening where the rain water remains pure for a long time

Sarḥa: a plain covered with young annuals

Šaṭne: short branch valley; a shallow channel in a plain

Ṣawwâne: tract or hill covered with flints, *ṣawwân*

Ṣedawijje: a plain covered with dark-brown gravel

Še'en: creek

Šefa': a flat top of a long ridge

Šeffa (pl., *šfâf*): the brink of a plateau sinking steeply down to a valley

Še'îb (pl., *še'ibân* or *še'bân*): a main valley or watercourse of an intermittent stream

Selîl al-ma': a wild torrent, appearing and disappearing with equal suddenness

Semâḥ: a plain covered with coarse sand, with nothing to hinder rapid movement

Ṣen' (pl., *ṣnû'*): an artificial hollow in a rocky surface, where rain water remains

Senûd: the upper parts of a valley

Šeṛje: narrow gully

Siḥl: a crevice in a stony plain, where rain water remains a long time

Sirdâb: subterranean passage

Sowḥ (pl., *sîḥân* or *sijâḥ*): a valley without a channel or with one partly filled in; shallow depression

Šrejf: a narrow mountain spur

Swâhîǧ: small paths

Šwâhîž: high, steep, impassable mountains

Ṭablât or *ṭbûl*: hollow knolls, domes, or "bubbles"

Ṭaffa (pl., *ṭfâf*): a plateau cleft by a deep valley

Ṭâǧ: the opening of a snake hole

Ṭanhaǧ (pl., *tanâheǧ*): a hillock serving as a landmark

Ṭâr: a long, high, steep escarpment

Ṭarab (pl., *ṭurbân*): a crevice in a rock or a small hole in a rocky gully, where rain water gathers